

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 VO-03 CU-02 /032 W

-----302329Z 048150 /62

R 300930Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6528

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, JA, KN, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS TO US

REF: STATE 67237

1. ROGER GALE, HEAD OF AFSC OFFICE IN TOKYO, PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROPOSED CHOSEN SOREN VISIT TO US. PAEK HAN-KI AND KIM MYONG-CHOL, AFSC'S PRIMARY CHOSEN SOREN CONTACTS, FIRST RAISED POSSIBILITY OF US TRIP WITH GALE IN LOW-KEY MANNER SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, CITING NEED FOR RECIPROCITY IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS VISITS OF US ACADEMICS AND JOURNALISTS TO PYONGYANG. GALE HAD IMPRESSION PAEK AND KIM HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY AFSC'S POSITIVE RESPONSE. SINCE LEVENBACH'S LAST MEETING WITH THEM, PAEK AND KIM HAVE CHANGED PLANS AND NO LONGER INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN CANADIAN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR LATE APRIL. TIME FRAME FOR PROPOSED US VISIT HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN PUSHED BACK TO EARLY FALL.

2. ACCORDING TO GALE, PAEK AND KIM DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF THEIR PROPOSED VISIT AS "TO GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICANS." GALE STATED THAT AFSC HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO CHOSEN SOREN THAT VISIT COULD NOT INCLUDE "ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS  
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SPEECHES OR LARGE, PUBLICIZED MEETINGS." ITINERARY IS STILL TENTATIVE, AS ENVISIONED BY GALE, VISIT WOULD INCLUDE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH INTERESTED ACADEMICS - SUCH AS NATHANIEL THAYER, RICHARD FALK AND ROBERT SCALAPINO - AND "IN-HOUSE DISCUSSIONS" WITH VARIOUS LOCAL AFSC CHAPTERS IN PHILADELPHIA, WASHINGTON DC AND ON WEST COAST.

3. FOLLOWING IS BIO DATA ON PAEK AND KIM CULLED FROM  
EMBASSY FILES:

PAEK HAN-KI IS VETERAN CHOSEN SOREN CADRE OF OVER TWO  
DECADES EXPERIENCE. BORN IN 1929 IN KYONGSANG-NAMDO  
KOREA, HE CAME TO JAPAN IN 1943. FOLLOWING RISE THROUGH  
RANKS OF CHOSEN SOREN TEACHERS' LEAGUE IN 1950'S, HE  
SUBSEQUENTLY SHIFTED TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU. HE  
HAS VISITED PYONGYANG AND HAS TRAVELLED AS OFFICIAL  
MEMBER OF NORTH KOREAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO  
IPU MEETINGS IN LONDON AND SRI LANKA. HE IS CURRENTLY  
MEMBER OF CHOSEN SOREN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CHIEF  
OF INTERNATIONAL BUREAU'S SECOND DIVISION.

KIM MYONG-CHOL, ETHNIC KOREAN BORN IN JAPAN, IS IN  
HIS EARLY 30'S. AS EDITOR OF "PEOPLE'S KOREA,"  
CHOSEN SOREN ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY, HE MAINTAINS  
CONTACT WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND SUCH GROUPS AS  
AFSC. HE REPORTEDLY TRAVELLED TO CANADA AND MOSCOW  
IN 1976.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, JA, KN, US, CHOSEN SOREN, (PAEK HAN-KI), (KIM MYONG-CHOL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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